

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03903 070535Z

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 OPR-02 /038 W
-----070627Z 095756 /17

R 070147Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4421

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 3903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: PROCESSING FOR I-C REFUGEE BOAT CASES

REF (A) JAKARTA 3078 (B) KUALA LUMPUR 1201

1. BASED UPON REPORTS FROM SEA POSTS AND RECENT TRIP OF TDY CONOFF TO MALAYSIA, CONGEN HAS CONCLUDED THAT SPECIAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY HAVING TO PROCESS REFUGEES IN WIDELY SCATTERED AND OFTEN REMOTE LOCATIONS HAVE PLACED DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE BURDEN UPON SMALL CONSULAR STAFFS. KUALA LUMPUR AND POSSIBLY JAKARTA FACED WITH SITUATION WHERE TIMELY PROCESSING OF NEWLY-ARRIVED BOAT CASE REFUGEES PRECLUDED BY STAFFING LIMITATIONS WHICH PREVENT PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICER TO TRAVEL TO ISOLATED SITES WHEN AND WHERE NEEDED.

2. PROBLEM DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO QUICK OR EASY SOLUTION. FLOW OF REFUGEE BOATS FROM VIETNAM UNABATED AND MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN GOVERNMENTS ARE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 03903 070535Z

APPARENTLY RELUCTANT TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES FROM OUTLYING AREAS TO EASILY-ACCESSIBLE CENTRALIZED CAMPS.

3. POST, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS ASSIGNMENT TO HONG KONG OF "CIRCUIT RIDER" OFFICER WITH SPECIFIC REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CE PROCESSING, I.E., TO ACCOMPANY INS OFFICER TO CONDUCT INS/CONS INTERVIEWS

AFTER DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY EMBASSY BASED ON INFO GATHERED BY VOLAG REP. PREFER THAT OFFICER HAVE CONSULAR EXPERIENCE AND VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE CAPABILITY TO OFFSET LACK OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS IN AREA. ESSENTIAL THAT ADEQUATE TRAVEL FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MULTIPLE TRIPS OVER PERIOD OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

4. QUESTION OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETER REMAINS UNSOLVED. EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR, DESPITE ITS BEST EFFORTS, HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO RECRUIT ANYONE LOCALLY. WE UNCERTAIN RE INTERPRETER AVAILABILITY IN JAKARTA. (BOTH EMBASSIES MAY WISH TO COMMENT.) USE OF REFUGEE INTERPRETERS FOR PRESCREENING BY VOLAG REMAINS ADEQUATE AT MOST CAMPS, BUT EVEN THIS SOURCE OF HELP WILL DISAPPEAR AS CAT I FAMILIES LEAVE FOR U S. FOR INS/CONS INTERVIEW, TRUSTED OUTSIDE INTERPRETER IMPERATIVE TO INVESTIGATE DUBIOUS FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, COMMUNIST AFFILIATION, AND OTHER POSSIBLE GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY. RECOMMEND THAT

INTERPRETER NEED BE MET BY TEMPORARY-HIRE CONTRACT EMPLOYEE, PERHAPS OUT OF THAILAND, WHO WOULD BE FUNDED REGIONALLY.

5. ESTIMATE THAT "CIRCUIT RIDER" CONOFF AND INTERPRETER WILL BE NEEDED FOR MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS. RECOMMEND OFFICER BE BASED IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO TRAVEL WITH INS OFFICER ON TRIPS TO CAMP SITES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 HONG K 03903 070535Z

ASSIST IN FINAL PROCESSING HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
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Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JAKARTA 3078, 77 KUALA LUMPUR 1201
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2871127
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROCESSING FOR I-C REFUGEE BOAT CASES
TAGS: SREF, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54ccc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009